

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00879 220850Z

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COMMERCE FOR BEWT/EEAD (TREICHEL)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRA, CZ

SUBJECT: UNION CARBIDE TECHNICIANS AT ZALUZI PETROCHEMICAL
COMPLEX

REF: ELLIS-FARRAND OFFICIAL-INFORMAL, OCTOBER 15, 1974.

1. FIRST FOUR UNION CARBIDE TECHNICIANS OF TOTAL
COMPLEMENT OF ELEVEN WHO WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE UP
RESIDENCE IN TOWN OF LITVINOV (NEAR EAST GERMAN BORDER,
APPROXIMATELY 100 KILOMETERS NW OF PRAGUE) FOR PURPOSE
OF STARTING UP NEW POLETHYLENE PLANT AT ZALUZI PETRO-
CHEMICAL COMPLEX ARRIVED WITH FAMILIES AT PRAGUE
AIRPORT ON APRIL 16 WITHOUT VISAS. WORKING THROUGH
APPROPRIATE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN TRADE CORPORATION
(TECHNOEXPORT) AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EMBASSY
WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN 24-HOUR TRANSIT VISAS FOR TRAVELERS
WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO ENTER COUNTRY OVERNIGHT UNTIL
INTERIM TOURIST VISAS COULD BE ISSUED. ACCORDING TO
MEMBER OF GROUP, CZECHOSLOVAK VISAS ALLOWING TECHNICIANS
TO ENTER COUNTRY UNDER TERMS OF UNION CARBIDE/
TECHNOEXPORT CONTRACT FOR PERIODS OF UP TO ONE YEAR
WERE TO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR GROUP ON ARRIVAL AT
PRAGUE AIRPORT. NO ONE WE CONTACTED, HOWEVER, IN
EITHER FTO OF MFA WAS AWARE OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT OR,
IN FACT, OF GROUP'S ARRIVAL PLANS.

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00879 220850Z

2. APPARENTLY, GROUP FLEW DIRECTLY FROM VICTORIA, TEXAS TO PRAGUE, VIA NEW YORK AND AMSTERDAM (WHERE THEY HAD FEW DAYS LAYOVER) WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED ANY SORT OF GENERAL BRIEFING PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, I.E., "DO'S" AND "DONT'S", PASSPORT AND VISA PROCEDURES, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ETC.

3. SINCE BALANCE OF UNION CARBIDE TECHNICIANS (WHO, WITH FAMILIES, WILL EVENTUALLY NUMBER 32 IN TOTAL) WILL BE ARRIVING OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, REQUEST BEWT CONTACT MR. T.J. KUNKEL AT UNION CARBIDE HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK (270 PARK AVENUE) AND INFORM HIM OF FIRST GROUP'S EXPERIENCE. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FROM EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW THAT THESE TECHNICIANS, WHO WILL REPRESENT FIRST GROUP OF U.S. CITIZENS TO LIVE AND WORK INCZECHOSLOVAKIA OUTSIDE OF PRAGUE IN RECENT MEMORY, BE FULLY AND ADEQUATELY BRIEFED ON WHAT TO EXPECT HERE. AT A MINIMUM NONE OF TECHNICIANS AND FAMILIES NOW IN PIPELINE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE U.S. WITHOUG VALID CZECHOSLOVAK VISA IN THEIR PASSPORTS.

4. EMBASSY HAS URGED GROUP, NOW IN LITVINOV, TO COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR DETAILED BRIEFING BY CONSULAR AND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS ON CZECHOSLOVAK LAWS AND REGULATIONS WHICH WILL AFFECT THEM, AND WE WILL OF COURSE BE HAPPY TO DO SAME FOR ANY FUTURE GROUP. BUT IN INTERESTS OF EFFICIENCY AND MORALE, WE HOPE THAT UNION CARBIDE WILL TAKE GREATER CARE IN FUTURE TO PREPARE ITS EMPLOYEES IN U.S. FOR WHAT WILL CERTAINLY BE IN SEVERAL RESPECTS A VERY RIGOROUS WORKING YEAR FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.
PERRY

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